

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-15 are now present in this application.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended, and claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by TAKEDA, U.S. Patent 6,491,593. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3, 7 and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by LEE, U.S. Patent 6,319,149. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being anticipated by TAKEDA. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over TAKEDA in view of CHEN et al., U.S. Patent 5,743,813. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 discloses a golf club head including a club head body having a shoulder, and at least one ring received in an annular groove of the shoulder. By contrast, TAKEDA discloses a ring member 9 sandwiches in-between a face member 8 and a weight 10. Accordingly, TAKEDA fails to disclose a club head body having a shoulder to accommodate a ring member. It is respectfully submitted that it is inappropriate for the Examiner to consider the shoulder

of the club body of the present application and the weight member of TAKEDA to be equivalent.

Meanwhile, LEE discloses a ring 18a surrounding a periphery of a faceplate 14a to constitute a combination faceplate and ring. However, the combination faceplate and ring of LEE fail to disclose a club head body having a shoulder and an annular groove for receiving a ring member.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the references utilized by the Examiner teaches or suggests a club head body having a shoulder and an annular groove for receiving a ring member. One of ordinary skill in the art could not possibly, in the absence of hindsight, have conceived of using an annular groove of a weight of TAKEDA to achieve such a shoulder having an annular groove as is seen in the present application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 9 and 10 to contain allowable subject matter. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(a), 102(b), 102(e) and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not

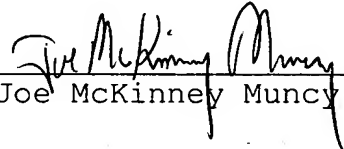
been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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